

HUNGRY HORSE VILLAGE, TIMBER SAND BUNKER
(Hungry Horse Village, Structure 21)
(Hungry Horse Village, Sand Shed)
Flathead National Forest
Approximately 1 mile south of Highway 2 *East*
and 1/4 mile east of Colorado Blvd.
Hungry Horse, *vicinity*
Flathead County
Montana

HABS No. MT-112-C

HABS
MT-112-C

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Intermountain Support Office - Denver
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HUNGRY HORSE VILLAGE, TIMBER SAND BUNKER (HUNGRY HORSE VILLAGE, STRUCTURE 21) (HUNGRY HORSE VILLAGE, SAND SHED)

HABS No. MT-112-C

Location: Approximately one mile south of Hwy 2 and one-quarter mile east of Colorado Blvd. in Hungry Horse, Flathead National Forest, Flathead County, Montana.

vicinity

Significance: The Sand Shed/Timber Sand Bunker is located within the warehouse complex associated with the construction period of the Hungry Horse Dam (1945–1953) and its government and contractors' camps, known collectively as Hungry Horse Village. The Sand Shed, however, does not appear to date to this period of significance, having been built in 1954 (immediately following completion of the dam) to provide sand for icy roads in the area.

Description: The sand shed is located about 100 yards southwest of the three-sided metal shed (HABS No. MT-112-A) and Spotted Bear District Warehouse (HABS No. MT-112-B). The structure is built a short distance from the edge of the terrace that contains the remainder of the maintenance buildings. The upper level of the structure lies at the same elevation as the maintenance yard, while the lower components (including three sand hoppers and a pull-through loading area) lie below the level of the yard. Sand is loaded into the shed at the upper level; gravity allows the material to flow into the hoppers and the loading area below.

The upper level of the structure consists of a timber frame enclosure with a shed roof. The north, west, and south sides of the structure and the roof are covered with corrugated galvanized metal panels. The east wall is divided into bays by three metal-sheathed wooden doors, which slide along overhead tracks. The doors fill the full height (11½ feet) and width of the wall, and overlap each other so they can be opened in a variety of configurations. The east side of the enclosed shed is accessed via an elevated driveway, the same width as the building, which extends from the level of the maintenance area. The driveway is protected on both sides by wooden safety railings, and the driving surface is paved with an asphalt/gravel mixture. Grooved metal plates with holes and side-hooks for joining the plates together partially cover the driveway, apparently as reinforcement over deteriorating sections of wood and asphalt.

The three sand hoppers lie below the shed. The walls of the hoppers are enclosed with tongue and groove boards affixed to the inside of vertical posts; all of the structural members are bolted together. Each of the hoppers has two openings in the bottom that allow sand to be discharged. These are controlled from below by a metal pulley system. An open area below the hoppers is of sufficient size, roughly 13 feet wide by 12 feet high, to allow trucks to pull under the structure for loading. The sides of the loading area are defined by the timber structure that serves as the foundation for the sand hoppers and the shed above. Each side of the foundation has 14 vertical timbers set atop 40-foot long concrete piers. Like the remainder of the components, the structural members of the foundation are bolted together.

History: Sparse documentation has been found referring specifically to this sand shed, but it appears to be the same building as the "Timber Sand Bunker" that J. W. Merz of

Columbia Falls, Montana, completed on August 21, 1954, for the sum of \$9,793.50. This evidence debunks a miscellaneous site form prepared in 2000, which claims the sand shed was built in 1940, and upholds the 2004 Montana Historic property record, which concludes that it was more likely constructed some time after 1949.

Although conclusive documentation about use patterns over time has not been found, the structure's name, form, and construction style speak to its historic function. Trucks deposited aggregate from the driveway above into the three hoppers of the sand shed. From below, trucks could then back underneath the structure and receive material from the hoppers through one of the six openings (two per hopper). Because of the shed's location nearly three miles distant from the dam itself and its apparent construction date of 1954, the structure does not date to the period of significance for the construction of the dam itself. Rather, it appears to have been used locally at Hungry Horse Village and likely on the road to the dam to allow safe passage during icy winter conditions. The Montana Historic Property Record for the government camp and contractors' camp, filed in 2004 notes that the sand in the shed was used for spreading on roads.

Sources:

Bill Crane, "Misc. Info. Associated with Building or Site," form, Hungry Horse R.S., Sand Shed, August 11, 2000, United States Forest Service, Flathead National Forest, Kalispell, Montana.

Timothy Light, "Hungry Horse Government Camp/Contractors' Camp," Montana Historic Property Record, site number 24FH985, 2004.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Region 1, Hungry Horse Project, Montana, "Annual Project History," 10 (1954). Record Group 115, Bureau of Reclamation Project History, Hungry Horse Dam, Box 46, National Archives and Record Center, Lakewood, Colorado.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, "Technical Record of Design and Construction, Hungry Horse Dam and Powerplant," constructed 1948-1953, Denver, Colorado, May 1958, government documents, University of Montana, Mansfield Library.

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